

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A print system ~~in accordance with claim 4,~~ that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system comprising:

a counting module that counts up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

a count judgment module that determines whether the count given by said counting module reaches a preset value;

a printing operation restriction module that restricts printing operations of said printer when said count judgment module determines that the count reaches the preset value;

a connection detection module that detects establishment of connection with said management server;

a count setting module that resets the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server by said connection detection module; and

an auto connection trial module that tries to establish connection with said management server via the telecommunication line at every predetermined time interval after the start of said print system,

wherein said count judgment module determines whether the count reaches the preset value, which is specified based on a maximum number of sheets printable with said printer in the predetermined time interval.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A print system ~~in accordance with claim 4,~~ that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system comprising:

a counting module that counts up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

a count judgment module that determines whether the count given by said counting module reaches a preset value;

a printing operation restriction module that restricts printing operations of said printer when said count judgment module determines that the count reaches the preset value;

a connection detection module that detects establishment of connection with said management server;

a count setting module that resets the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server by said connection detection module; and

an auto connection trial module that tries to establish connection with said management server via the telecommunication line at every predetermined time interval after the start of said print system,

wherein said count judgment module determines whether the count reaches the preset value, which is specified based on a maximum number of sheets printable in response to a user's requirements in the predetermined time interval.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A print system ~~in accordance with claim 4, said print system further~~ that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system comprising:

a counting module that counts up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

a count judgment module that determines whether the count given by said counting module reaches a preset value;

a printing operation restriction module that restricts printing operations of said printer when said count judgment module determines that the count reaches the preset value;

a connection detection module that detects establishment of connection with said management server;

a count setting module that resets the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server by said connection detection module;

an auto connection trial module that tries to establish connection with said management server via the telecommunication line at every predetermined time interval after the start of said print system; and

a predetermined time interval variation module that varies the predetermined time interval according to a frequency of printing with said printer in response to a user's requirements.

Claims 8-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A print system ~~in accordance with claim 1,~~ that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system comprising:

a counting module that counts up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

a count judgment module that determines whether the count given by said counting module reaches a preset value;

a printing operation restriction module that restricts printing operations of said printer when said count judgment module determines that the count reaches the preset value;

a connection detection module that detects establishment of connection with said management server;

a count setting module that resets the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server by said connection detection module;

a printing instruction output module that outputs printing instructions in time series to said printer;

an operation number input module that inputs a number of printing operations counted up by said counting module; and

a verification module that compares a total number of printed sheets with regard to printing instructions output in a predetermined time interval to said printer by said printing instruction output module with a total number of printing operations input in the predetermined time interval by said operation number input module, and verifies a working status of said printer based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 12 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 11, wherein said verification module determines whether either of a difference between the total number of printing operations input in the predetermined time interval by said operation number input module

and the total number of printed sheets with regard to the printing instructions output in the predetermined time interval to said printer by said printing instruction output module and a ratio of the total number of printing operations to the total number of printed sheets is within a preset allowable range, so as to determine whether the working status of said printer is appropriate or inappropriate.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A print system ~~in accordance with claim 1, said print system further~~ that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system comprising:

a counting module that counts up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

a count judgment module that determines whether the count given by said counting module reaches a preset value;

a printing operation restriction module that restricts printing operations of said printer when said count judgment module determines that the count reaches the preset value;

a connection detection module that detects establishment of connection with said management server;

a count setting module that resets the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server by said connection detection module;

a printing instruction output module that outputs printing instructions in time series to said printer;

a cumulative value input module that receives a cumulative count representing a number of printing operations at a start of execution of each printing instruction by said printer and a cumulative count representing a number of printing operations at an end of execution of the printing instruction by said printer, from said counting module; and

a verification module that compares a cumulative count at an end of execution of a previous printing instruction received by said cumulative value input module with a cumulative count at a start of execution of a current printing instruction received by said cumulative value input module, among the printing instructions output in time series, and verifies a working status of said printer based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 14 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 13, wherein said verification module determines whether either of a difference between the cumulative count at the start of execution of the current printing instruction and the cumulative count at the end of execution of the previous printing instruction among the printing instructions output in time series and a ratio of the cumulative count at the start of execution of the current printing instruction to the cumulative count at the end of execution of the previous printing instruction is within a preset allowable range, so as to determine whether the working status of said printer is appropriate or inappropriate.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A print system ~~in accordance with claim 1~~, ~~said print system further~~ that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system comprising:

a counting module that counts up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

a count judgment module that determines whether the count given by said counting module reaches a preset value;

a printing operation restriction module that restricts printing operations of said printer when said count judgment module determines that the count reaches the preset value;

a connection detection module that detects establishment of connection with said management server;

a count setting module that resets the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server by said connection detection module;

a printing instruction output module that outputs printing instructions in time series to said printer;

a count input module that inputs a count representing a number of printing operations counted up in response to each of the printing instructions, from said counting module; and

a verification module that compares a number of printed sheets with regard to each printing instruction with a count corresponding to the printing instruction, and verifies a working status of said printer based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 16 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 15, wherein said verification module determines whether either of a difference between the count corresponding to each printing instruction and the number of printed sheets with regard to the printing instruction and a ratio of the count corresponding to each printing instruction to the number of printed sheets with regard to the printing instruction is within a preset allowable range, so as to determine whether the working status of said printer is appropriate or inappropriate.

Claim 17 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 11, said print system comprising said management server that manages the status of said printer, and a print server that sends the status of said printer to said management server via the telecommunication line, where said management server comprising at least said verification module and said print server comprising at least said printing instruction output module.

Claim 18 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 13, said print system comprising said management server that manages the status of said printer, and a print server that sends the status of said printer to said management server via the telecommunication line, where said management server comprising at least said verification module and said print server comprising at least said printing instruction output module.

Claim 19 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 15, said print system comprising said management server that manages the status of said printer, and a print server that sends the status of said printer to said management server via the telecommunication line, where said management server comprising at least said verification module and said print server comprising at least said printing instruction output module.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A print system ~~in accordance with claim 1, said print system further~~ that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system comprising:

a counting module that counts up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

a count judgment module that determines whether the count given by said counting module reaches a preset value;

a printing operation restriction module that restricts printing operations of said printer when said count judgment module determines that the count reaches the preset value;

a connection detection module that detects establishment of connection with said management server;

a count setting module that resets the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server by said connection detection module;

a printing instruction output module that exclusively outputs printing instructions in time series to said printer;

an operation number input module that inputs a number of printing operations counted up by said counting module; and

an assumption module that compares a total number of printed sheets with regard to printing instructions output in a predetermined time interval to said printer by said printing instruction output module with a total number of printing operations input in the predetermined time interval by said operation number input module, compares a number of printed sheets with regard to each of the printing instructions output to said printer by said printing instruction output module with a number of printing operations counted up in response to the each printing instruction and input by said operation number input module, and assumes a working status of said printer based on results of the comparisons.

Claim 21 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 20, wherein said assumption module assumes that said printer carries out printing in response to a foreign printing instruction received from a foreign device other than said printing instruction output module, when the result of the comparison between the total number of printing operations input in the predetermined time interval and the total number of printed sheets with regard to the printing instructions output in the predetermined time interval to said printer is out of a preset allowable range but the result of the comparison between the number of printing operations counted up in response to each printing instruction and the number of printed sheets with regard to the each printing instruction is within a predetermined allowable range.

Claim 22 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 20, wherein said assumption module assumes that said printer has some abnormality, when the result of the comparison between the total number of printing operations input in the predetermined time interval and

the total number of printed sheets with regard to the printing instructions output in the predetermined time interval to said printer is out of a preset allowable range and the result of the comparison between the number of printing operations counted up in response to each printing instruction and the number of printed sheets with regard to the each printing instruction is out of a predetermined allowable range.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A print system ~~in accordance with claim 1, said print system further~~ that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system comprising:

a counting module that counts up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

a count judgment module that determines whether the count given by said counting module reaches a preset value;

a printing operation restriction module that restricts printing operations of said printer when said count judgment module determines that the count reaches the preset value;

a connection detection module that detects establishment of connection with said management server;

a count setting module that resets the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server by said connection detection module;

a printing instruction output module that exclusively outputs printing instructions in time series to said printer;

a cumulative value input module that receives a cumulative count representing a number of printing operations at a start of execution of each printing instruction by said printer and a cumulative count representing a number of printing operations at an end of execution of the printing instruction by said printer, from said counting module;

a printing operation number computation module that computes a number of printing operations corresponding to each printing instruction from the two cumulative counts received by said cumulative value input module; and

an assumption module that compares a cumulative count at an end of execution of a previous printing instruction received by said cumulative value input module with a cumulative count at a start of execution of a current printing instruction received by said

cumulative value input module, among the printing instructions output in time series by said printing instruction output module, compares a number of printed sheets with regard to each of the printing instructions output to said printer by said printing instruction output module and a number of printing operations corresponding to the each printing instruction computed by said printing operation number computation module, and assumes a working status of said printer based on results of the comparisons.

Claim 24 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 23, wherein said assumption module assumes that said printer carries out printing in response to a foreign printing instruction received from a foreign device other than said printing instruction output module, when a difference between the cumulative count at the start of execution of the current printing instruction and the cumulative count at the end of execution of the previous printing instruction, among the printing instructions output in time series, is out of a preset allowable range but the result of the comparison between the computed number of printing operations corresponding to each printing instruction and the number of printed sheets with regard to the each printing instruction is within a predetermined allowable range.

Claim 25 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 23, wherein said assumption module assumes that said printer has some abnormality, when a difference between the cumulative count at the start of execution of the current printing instruction and the cumulative count at the end of execution of the previous printing instruction, among the printing instructions output in time series, is out of a preset allowable range and the result of the comparison between the number of printing operations corresponding to each printing instruction and the computed number of printed sheets with regard to the each printing instruction is out of a predetermined allowable range.

Claim 26 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 20, said print system comprising said management server that manages the status of said printer, and a print server that sends the status of said printer to said management server via the telecommunication line, where said management server comprising at least said assumption module and said print server comprising at least said printing instruction output module.

Claim 27 (Original): A print system in accordance with claim 23, said print system comprising said management server that manages the status of said printer, and a print server that sends the status of said printer to said management server via the telecommunication line, where said management server comprising at least said assumption module and said print server comprising at least said printing instruction output module.

Claim 28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A print system control method ~~in accordance with claim 28, said print system control method further~~ of activating one or multiple computers to control a print system that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system control method comprising the steps of:

counting up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

judging whether the count given in said count-up step reaches a preset value;

restricting printing operations of said printer when said judgment step determines that the count reaches the preset value;

detecting establishment of connection with said management server;

resetting the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server in said detection step;

outputting printing instructions in time series to said printer; and

comparing a total number of printed sheets with regard to printing instructions output in a predetermined time interval to said printer in said printing-instruction-output step with a total number of printing operations given in said count-up step in the predetermined time interval, and verifying a working status of said printer based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A print system control method ~~in accordance with claim 28, said print system control method further~~ of activating one or multiple computers to control a print system that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system control method comprising the steps of:

counting up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

judging whether the count given in said count-up step reaches a preset value;

restricting printing operations of said printer when said judgment step determines that the count reaches the preset value;

detecting establishment of connection with said management server;

resetting the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server in said detection step;

outputting printing instructions in time series to said printer;

receiving a cumulative count representing a number of printing operations at a start of execution of each printing instruction by said printer and a cumulative count representing a number of printing operations at an end of execution of the printing instruction by said printer; and

comparing a cumulative count at an end of execution of a previous printing instruction with a cumulative count at a start of execution of a current printing instruction, among the printing instructions output in time series, and verifying a working status of said printer based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A print system control method ~~in accordance with claim 28, said print system control method further~~ of activating one or multiple computers to control a print system that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system control method comprising the steps of:

counting up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

judging whether the count given in said count-up step reaches a preset value;

restricting printing operations of said printer when said judgment step determines that the count reaches the preset value;

detecting establishment of connection with said management server;

resetting the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server in said detection step;

outputting printing instructions in time series to said printer;

inputting a count representing a number of printing operations given in said count-up step, in response to each of the printing instructions; and

comparing a number of printed sheets with regard to each printing instruction with a count corresponding to the printing instruction, and verifying a working status of said printer based on a result of the comparison.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A print system control method ~~in accordance with claim 28, said print system control method further~~ of activating one or multiple computers to control a print system that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system control method comprising the steps of:

counting up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

judging whether the count given in said count-up step reaches a preset value;

restricting printing operations of said printer when said judgment step determines that the count reaches the preset value;

detecting establishment of connection with said management server;

resetting the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server in said detection step;

outputting printing instructions in time series to said printer; and

comparing a total number of printed sheets with regard to printing instructions output in a predetermined time interval to said printer in said printing-instruction-output step with a total number of printing operations given in said count-up step in the predetermined time interval, comparing a number of printed sheets with regard to each of the printing instructions output to said printer in said printing-instruction-output step with a number of printing operations counted up in response to the each printing instruction and input in said count-up step, and assuming a working status of said printer based on results of the comparisons.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A print system control method ~~in accordance with claim 28, said print system control method further~~ of activating one or multiple computers to control a print system that is capable of sending a status of a printer to a management server, which manages the status of said printer, via a telecommunication line, said print system control method comprising the steps of:

counting up printing operations of said printer to give a count representing a number of printing operations;

judging whether the count given in said count-up step reaches a preset value;

restricting printing operations of said printer when said judgment step determines that the count reaches the preset value;

detecting establishment of connection with said management server;

resetting the count to a specified value prior to the preset value, in response to detection of establishment of connection with said management server in said detection step;

outputting printing instructions in time series to said printer;

receiving a cumulative count representing a number of printing operations at a start of execution of each printing instruction by said printer and a cumulative count representing a number of printing operations at an end of execution of the printing instruction by said printer;

computing a number of printing operations corresponding to each printing instruction from the two cumulative counts received in said cumulative-count-input step; and

comparing a cumulative count at an end of execution of a previous printing instruction received in said cumulative-count-input step with a cumulative count at a start of execution of a current printing instruction received in said cumulative-count-input step, among the printing instructions output in time series in said printing-instruction-output step, comparing a number of printed sheets with regard to each of the printing instructions output to said printer in said printing-instruction-output step and a number of printing operations corresponding to the each printing instruction computed in said computation step, and verifying a working status of said printer based on results of the comparisons.